

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



This photograph, looking southwestward across Cape Kennedy, central Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico, is one of many outstanding pictures taken by astronauts James McDivitt and Edward White during the Gemini-4 spaceflight. It is the first photograph to appear in the "Picture of the Month" series that is not a television photograph. The picture was initially recorded on 70-mm. color film; this black-and-white reproduction, although remarkably detailed, does not do justice to the original version.

The photograph was taken at 1250 EST, June 5, 1965. Daytime convective cloudiness is concentrated over the land area of central Florida, with the water areas of the Atlantic and Gulf relatively cloud-free. Over Florida a light easterly flow existed at all levels

below 500 mb., and there is a slight tendency for the cumulus clouds to be aligned in east-west rows, roughly parallel to the flow. The large "hole" in the clouds at left center is in the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee; at right center the indentation along the Florida west coast is near Tampa Bay. Toward the upper left, lines of cumuli mark the Florida Keys and western Cuba. At the extreme upper left, near the horizon, is a cumulonimbus cloud with anvil top shearing off toward the southeast.

The altitude of the Gemini-4 spacecraft at picture time was approximately 180 km. Cape Kennedy, which appears in the foreground, is nearly 200 mi. distant from the camera. Lake Okeechobee and Tampa Bay are about 300 mi. distant.